

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and the dangers of ignoring the Fairness Doctrine.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we no longer hear messages from all sides. The companies with the most money control the messages. It's not about which party you belong to, it's about protecting the First Amendment created to ensure that all voices - big and small, weak and strong - have an equal opportunity to be heard.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard and why there should be limits on the number of media outlets one company can own. Thank you.